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Kirkpatrick: U.S. must take U.N. politics from Soviets

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Soviet Union dominates the United Nations through its diplomatic and political efforts, while the United States is "impotent" and "inept" within the world body, former U.N. ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick said yesterday.

In testimony before the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on international organizations, Mrs. Kirkpatrick said the Soviets and their client states have succeeded in focusing U.N. debate on those issues of importance to the Soviet Union.

"Through their active political role and active diplomatic role [the Soviets] have managed to influence very importantly, almost definitively, the agenda, the debate and the outcome of the U.N. as a political body," Mrs. Kirkpatrick said.

The former ambassador appeared along with Arkady Shevchenko, a former Soviet diplomat and U.N. undersecretary general. Rep. Daniel Mica, the Florida Democrat who heads the subcommittee, questioned whether the United Nations had become "an elite anti-U.S. debating society."

Mr. Mica said the hearing is part of a series that will examine what U.S. interests have been served by participating and funding the United Nations over the past 40 years, including $350 million each year.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, who resigned her post as U.N. ambassador earlier this year, did not recommend pulling out of the organization. Instead, she urged that the United States pursue an aggressive policy based on a coherent strategy.

She called for the selective withholding of U.S. funds from the United Nations in order to counter programs and policies that are hostile to American interests and that violate the U.N. charter.

"The United States is almost impotent in the politics of the United Nations," Mrs. Kirkpatrick said. "The United States has been inept, and the Soviet Union has been very, very good."

Besides marking the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, this year is also the 10th anniversay of a U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism, a move Mrs. Kirkpatrick called "one of the most infamous acts of the U.N."

Mrs. Kirkpatrick cited the recently established news service called PINS, which is controlled by Soviet U.N. employees, as one example of Soviet influence at the United Nations.

She said that when President Reagan met with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar he "emphasized the unacceptability of establishing such a news service."

"It is, in effect, there and publishing on a daily basis and spewing forth a regular flow of highly tendentious international news coverage," Mrs. Kirkpatrick said.

She said the United States must master U.N. politics in order to reform the institution or else face the eventual prospect of deciding whether remaining a U.N. member is worth the trouble.

Withdrawing from membership would "shock" underdeveloped nations since the United Nations is very important to those countries, she said.

Mr. Shevchenko, who defected in 1978, said the Soviet Union uses the United Nations as a major propaganda forum and as a center for espionage activities.

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